

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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An amount of photosynthetic biomass such as wood is converted into coal such as charcoal and a substantial amount thereof is permanently stored until the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level is reduced to an extent which is unable to cause a greenhouse effect. While a main portion of the charcoal remains in permanent storage, a fraction thereof may be retained prior to or retrieved during or after achievement of the reduction in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level. Such fraction is converted into energy or an energy source, for example hydrogen, in a manner such that thereby the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is maintained at a level which does not cause an undesired greenhouse effect.

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